**Graduate Certificate in Social Innovation**

**The Purpose of the Certificate**This certificate program enables currently matriculated graduate students across CU Boulder not only to understand some of society’s most complex and pressing problems, but also how to solve them. In addition, it allows graduate students in specific disciplines to study these problems in an interdisciplinary way and with access to courses across the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. While there are numerous courses and degrees in the Arts and Sciences to enhance graduate students’ substantive knowledge of specific social issues and programs in the professional schools that offer the practical tools for applying solutions, this certificate is unique in that it serves to integrate these efforts across campus.

**The Need the Certificate Addresses**  
It is essential that public universities offer programs that nurture innovative thinking and prepare professionals to solve society's most complex and pressing problems. This is especially true today as problem solving is often cited as the number one job skill sought by employers (<https://www.naceweb.org/talent-acquisition/candidate-selection/problem-solving-skills-top-attributes-employers-seeking-on-resumes/>). This skill is especially in high demand among non-profits that have recently made three times as many hires than for-profits (<https://www.fastcompany.com/90229556/nonprofits-are-hiring-people-three-times-faster-than-for-profit-companies>). Being an effective problem solver is also important for those working in the public and social sectors who are increasingly expected to do more with less.

While more colleges have responded to these needs by offering courses on topics like impact investing and program evaluation, there is a sizeable research gap in their curriculum. Graduate students are often taught either how to analyze social problems (e.g., in the social sciences) or how to create and manage organizations that cater to clients (e.g., in business schools), but rarely both. And yet it is precisely this combination of skills that is needed to bring about real social change. By training graduate students to be social innovation catalysts, this certificate program will enable them to maximize their social impact and be effective in a world that rewards professionals comfortable with change, experimentation, and working across disciplines.

**Description of the Curriculum**  
The certificate requires successful completion of 2 graduate methods courses (6 credit hours) and 1 elective graduate course in a substantive area (3 credit hours) with a grade of B or higher. The required methods classes are BMAX 6130 and SOCY 5160.

Participants can apply one of the following electives listed below to the certificate. If there is a class that a student would like to use as an elective but it is not listed here, they can petition to have it accepted as an elective.

ANTH 5700: Practicing Anthropology

ANTH 7000: Anthropology of Policy

ATLS 5519: Venture Capital and Private Equity (limited to 5 students)

BMEN 5117: Anatomy and Physiology for Biomedical Engineering

EDUC 5301: Queering topics in Education

EDUC 5010: Race/Equity in Higher Education

EDUC 5075: Sociology of Education

EDUC 6245: Latinx Issues in Education

EDUC 6011: Education Law and Litigation Workshop

EDUC 6220: Gender and Education

EDUC 6240: African American Issues in Education

EDUC 6260: Transnational Migration

EDUC 7446: Policy Issues in Education

EMEN 5020: Finance for Technical Managers

EMEN 5030: Project Management

EMEN 5052: Leading Others

EMEN 5215: Sustainability Principles for Engineering Managers

EMEN 5220: Product Design for the Circular Economy

EMEN 5225: Sustainable Operations and Supply Chains

EMEN 5230: Resilience Engineering Leadership in Crisis

ENVM 5050: Social Innovation and Sustainable Cities (subject to availability)

ENVS 5340: Conservation Biology and Practice in Brazil’s Atlantic Forest

ENVS 5750: Climate Politics and Science-Policy

ENVS 5820: Energy Policy in the 21st Century

ENVS 6301: Environmental and Energy Economics

ENVS 6305: Reducing the Environmental Impact of Food Systems: Evidence-Based Solutions

JRNL 5812: Science Writing

JRNL 5822: Reporting on the Environment

JRNL 7021: Environmental Journalism and Science Communication

JRNL 7030: Media Sociology

JRNL 7034: Media and Health Communication

PHIL 5120: Philosophy and Animals

PHIL 5150: Topics in Applied Ethics

PHIL 5210: Philosophy and Social Policy

PHIL 5230: Bioethics and Public Policy

PHIL 5240: Seminar in Environmental Philosophy

PHIL 5290: Topics in Values and Social Policy

SLHS 7550: Hearing Loss Prevention from a Public Health Perspective (subject to availability)

SOCY 7171: Work and Organizations

If you have any questions about the certificate, please feel free to contact the program’s director, Professor Don Grant ([dogr2184@colorado.edu](mailto:dogr2184@colorado.edu)).